<center>REMARKS</center>

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 31, 2006. Claims 25-27, 29-34, 36-41 and 43-45 are pending in this application, of which Claims 25, 32 and 39 are in independent form. Claims 25, 32, and 39 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 25, 31, 32, 38, 39 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ulead Systems, Inc., "PhotoImpact Version 3.0," English Edition January 1996, pp. 90-92 and 155-156 ("PhotoImpact"). Claims 26, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 41, 43 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over PhotoImpact in view of U.S. Patent 5,077,811 (Onda).

Independent Claim 25 is directed to an image processing method for processing an input document image. The method includes the steps of: (1) displaying an instruction input window to receive both of a first instruction and a second instruction from a user, wherein the first instruction indicates, by selecting one of a plurality of buttons which include a button for auto discrimination of the document orientation and four buttons for manual instruction of the document orientation on the instruction input window, whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually, and wherein the second instruction indicates whether or not a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected; (2) determining, based on the first instruction corresponding to one of the buttons selected in the instruction input window, whether the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually; (3) automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image as one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees if it is determined in the determining step that the user has instructed, by selecting the button for auto discrimination, that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected; (4) automatically rotating the document image based on

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the discriminated orientation of the document image if it is determined in the determining step that the user has instructed the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected; (5) rotating the document image according to a rotation angle of one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees corresponding to the button selected by the user if it is determined in the determining step that the user has instructed, by selecting one of the four buttons for manual instruction, that the orientation of the document image should be manually corrected; and (6) if it is determined based on the second instruction that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, automatically correcting the tilt of the document image which is rotated in the automatic rotating step or in the rotating step, wherein the automatic correction step does not execute automatic correction of the tilt of the document image which is rotated in the automatic rotating step or in the rotating step if it is determined based on the second instruction that the tilt of the document image should not be automatically corrected.

By virtue of the method of Claim 25, therefore, the automatic and manual rotation processing are executed in response to the first and second instructions given via the instruction input window by the user, wherein the first instruction indicates, by selecting one of a plurality of buttons which include a button for auto discrimination of the document orientation and four buttons for manual instruction of the document orientation, whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually, and wherein the second instruction indicates whether or not a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected.

PhotoImpact discusses a "Transform tool" feature at pages 155-156 for performing transformations including rotation processing for manually rotating an image. PhotoImpact also discusses an Auto-Process feature with seven options, including a "Straighten" option, for straightening images (page 91). While the "Straighten" option may provide for automatically correcting the tilt of an image, Applicants have found nothing in

PhotoImpact that would teach or suggest "displaying an instruction input window to receive both of a first instruction and a second instruction from a user, wherein the first instruction indicates, by selecting one of a plurality of buttons which include a button for **auto discrimination** of the document orientation and four buttons for manual instruction of the document orientation on the instruction input window, whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually, and wherein the second instruction indicates whether or not a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected," as recited in Claim 25 (emphasis added).

It follows, therefore, that PhotoImpact fails to teach or suggest "determining, based on the first instruction corresponding to one of the buttons selected in the instruction input window, whether the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually," "automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image as one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed, by selecting the button for auto discrimination, that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected" or "automatically rotating the document image based on the discriminated orientation of the document image if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected," as recited in Claim 25.

Independent Claims 32 and 39 are apparatus and computer-readable storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 25, and are believed to be patentable over PhotoImpact for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 25.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references

against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

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